

MARKET STREET



“And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you...” (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblenz..... (256) 232-3312
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web

MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

is published in the interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Market Street church.

David A. Cox, Editor

Volume XIV

September 25, 2022

No. 39

A Word Fitly Spoken

David A. Cox

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver” — (Proverbs 25:11).

Words have great power. They are the vehicles on which we convey our thoughts to others. We can choose to use our words to build up, encourage, and help others, or we can use our words to humiliate, discourage, harm, hurt, and destroy. The wise man sees the power of words used appropriately at the right time. The words spoken at the right moment to one who needs them are precious and beautiful. The picture of “apples of gold in settings of silver” gives us the value and beauty of words used in the proper time and way. Let’s consider ways to use our words to impact others for good.

Words Used to Engage the Hearer.

A Christian is one who has committed his life to Christ. It means he accepts Jesus as his Lord and Master. Jesus being Lord means they are disciples or followers of Christ. As disciples, we learn from Jesus how we should live our lives. Looking to Jesus, we see that the life of the disciple is to be a life that is engaged and active. In the life of Jesus, we see Him engaged in life and how He would speak to others to engage them. A prime example of Jesus using words to engage the hearer is in John 4. Jesus encounters a woman at the well and says, “Give me a drink” (John 4:7). These words caught her attention, immediately engaged her curiosity, and took her into the discussion Jesus wanted to have. The conversation here is just one occasion, but there were many in the life of Jesus. Let us look for ways to say things to engage them as Jesus did.

Words Used to Encourage the Hearer.

Words fitly spoken will also encourage the hearer. The example, in John 4, Jesus knew a lot about the woman and many things that were not good. Jesus did not give her a stern rebuke for the life she had been living. Instead, He engaged her, encouraging her that her life did not have to continue that way. How many times do we have the opportunity to use words to encourage and speak to someone who is discouraged and

needs to be lifted up? Do we seize that opportunity? Or, do we decide to give them a piece of our mind and let them know how we feel? Yes, there are times when we need to speak words of admonishment, but let's make sure that our speech is "always with grace, seasoned with salt" in talking to others (Colossians 4:6).

Words Used to Empower the Hearer.

The words Jesus spoke to the woman at the well definitely empowered her as she left the conversation with Jesus. She came to the well at noon, hoping to avoid seeing anyone. She was most likely known by many who lived there, but she was not the most admired person. After the conversation with Jesus, she leaves her water pot and goes into the town to encounter people; to tell them about Jesus. What was the difference? Jesus had given her the hope of salvation that the Messiah would bring. She wanted to engage, encourage and empower others with her words as Jesus did for her.

Indeed, "words fitly spoken" significantly impact the hearers. Let us determine to use our words at the right time and the right way to influence others for good and that our words will be "as apples of gold, in settings of silver."



The Blessing of Loss

Michael W. McLemore

The word "blessing" has become synonymous with "gift," hasn't it? Many assume, "If I just listen and obey God, He'll give me more and more!"

We tend to think of blessings as new benefits He gives us to enjoy. Does obedience insure the extra blessing of a salary increase? Does following God's will call for Him to respond with the blessing of happy relationships?

Some may be surprised to know that God often blesses by taking things away. Doubters may ask, "How can God benefit me by giving me less of what I enjoy?" This attitude reveals the problem of human pride, Psalm 81:12. Man tends to believe that he knows what is best for him: "If I enjoy something, then it has to be good

and proper." "The Lord should give me more!" Right?

Wrong! The Lord Jesus is no cosmic Santa Claus. Our shortsighted point of view keeps us from seeing the Divine perspective. God sees all things, from beginning to end. He knows whether a particular relationship or more money would ultimately be a blessing or a curse. In some situations, the best thing He can "give" is to take something away, or to give less.

God brings things into our lives that He knows will bless us. Sometimes He chooses in His wisdom to "bless with less."

New Testament Christians must resist the nefarious temptation to question whether God is acting in our best interest when a particular loss or disappointment is experienced. With time and perspective, you will see God's loving care for you is demonstrated by taking something away. Perhaps these three thoughts will aid in trusting His blessing in His own time.

Cast Your Care On Him — He knows our needs before we know them. He sees unforeseen future temptations and assaults against our faith. Trust Him with your cares.

Open Your Heart To New Opportunity — Sometimes loss produces increased insight in new directions. Complacency is bred of affluence. When life is easy, we tend to the "eat, drink and be merry" syndrome. Losing makes us look up, then move forward.

Press Toward The Mark — This life is not our future. It is but a field of service for every child of God. Paul manifest the spirit of "forgetting" and "pressing forward," Philippians 3:13-14. He said, "Think this way!"

~via *Weatherly Weekly*; Huntsville, Alabama.



"We Go..."

Mike Noble

"We go to the church of Christ over at _____," the lady said. I was going through her neighborhood, passing out advertisements to a recent meeting, when I happened upon her house. She was cordial and took the

ad, but about the only words she could muster were, “We go...” Yet, as far as I know she is not a member at the congregation she mentioned. Nor had I ever seen her in attendance any of the several times I had attended a gospel meeting there. Her words struck me in a strange way. Had she convinced herself that attending the services of a ‘church of Christ’ every once-in-a-while was acceptable to the Lord?

The New Testament puts it this way: “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25). If you are a child of God such words ought to make a deep impression on your heart. As brethren and fellow partakers of the love of Christ we should do all we can to “consider one another,” doing all we possibly can to help each other to heaven. Such involves meeting with one another on a regular basis.

It is inconsiderate for any Christian to forsake the assembling of the church of which they are a part. There are some things that would keep a Christian from attending, things which would not constitute ‘forsaking’ (e.g., physical illness). But when a child of God allows relationships, entertainment, sporting events, etc., to take precedence over regularly scheduled assemblies of the saints, he has chosen to “forsake the assembling of ourselves together.” It is inconsiderate, but even more so, it is unlawful. The text says, “not forsaking—” That’s a negative command, a ‘thou shalt not.’ And it pertains to me and you.

~via *Central Shelby Church of Christ*; Shelbyville, Kentucky.

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Barbara Ash	Sharon Nave
Steve Stringer	Wanda Baker
James Adams	Shirley Miller
Betty Lovell	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Tim McGuire

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Charlotte Griffin	Freddie Mae Elmore

Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Judy Vaughn
Jeanette Weir	Doris Reid
Lloyd Adams	Charles Burns
Cindy Walker	Kenneth Fisher
Al Pollard	Matt Bassford
Sadricia Wilson	Leigh Ellen Elliott
Wynell Romine	Elmina McLemore
Anthony Sutton	Charlotte Adams
Nanette Chancellor	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Connie Brock, rm. 62
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	

Limestone Health Facility:

Marie Nave, rm. 79a	Bobby Ogles, rm. 113
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Bobbie Adcock; at her son’s home
 Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter’s in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions
 Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Keith Holt; Centennial Hospital – Nashville, Tenn.

Updates:

Dale Adcock went to the doctor on Tuesday and they gave her B12 and put a heart monitor on her... *Sharon Nave* began the full series of 20 radiation treatments on Thursday... *Margaret Carter* had a colonoscopy done on Monday and received a good report... *Vicki Stringer* had a blood transfusion on Friday morning... *Barbara Ash* is making improvement with her case of RSV... *Charlotte Griffin* is at home with Hospice... *Ruby Dean Ezell* is doing well following the injections she had done last week... *Brad Brown* was able to come home from the hospital on Friday... *Harold Davis* is scheduled to see an RA doctor on October 31st... *Doris McGuire’s son, Tim McGuire*, had endoscopic ultrasound on Tuesday at UAB in Birmingham. They determined that he has a mass in the stomach and will be having surgery... *Debra Holt’s aunt, Charlotte Adams*, continues to be very low, and the family is with her around the clock... *Barbara Ash’s brother, Stephen Bassitt*, has begun having hospice to help with his care... *Keith Holt, the oldest son of Danny*

and Larry's brother, Mike, is showing some improvement.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. The class is studying "The Christian in a Secular Age."

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet on Monday morning at 10:30 to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them in the morning.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made? We are continuing to make and update pictures of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Q & A: I continue to take questions to answer in our Bible Study on Wednesday nights during Question & Answer sessions. If you have questions that you would like for me to deal with, please write the questions or topics you are interested in hearing about, and I will deal with them.

ASHLEY GOOSEN'S VISIT: It was good to have Ashley Goosen from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, last Sunday. The church here has supported brother Goosen for 22 years and it is good to see the work he is doing. Remember him as he continues his travels in the states. He will return to South Africa on October 17th.

GOSPEL MEETINGS: The Jordan Park church is engaged in a meeting through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be Art Adams... The South Cullman church is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday evening. The speaker in this meeting will be David Deason.

OUT OF TOWN: The Burns: Tommy & Susan have been in Branson, Missouri... Jennifer Threet is enroute home from the Alaskan cruise... The Adcocks: Paul & Dale are in Indiana this weekend... The Adams: Nathaniel, Laura, Declan & Jack have been in Kansas this week... Shelia Holt is in Anaheim, California with her work... Sam Gregory is in Biloxi, Mississippi.

AWAYFROMUS: Some of our young people are away from home. Keep them in your prayers. Kenneth Adams is in Auburn for school. Keenon Currier is stationed in Monterey, California. Addison Holt is in Birmingham for school. Christian Usery is in Birmingham for work.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 18th:
Sunday: Bible Classes 116
Morning Worship 138
Evening Worship 98
Wednesday: Bible Classes 77

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, September 25th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Marty Adams
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Larry Tucker
Assisting Keith Hinkle
Serving Matthew Usery.... Matthew Vaughn
..... Luke Vaughn Roger Hammonds
Closing Prayer Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Larry Holt
Song Leader Clayton Hamm
Prayer..... Harold Ash
Preaching..... Song Service
Lord's Supper Larry Tucker
Closing Prayer Hunter Cox
Other Assignments for the week of September 25th:
Ushers..... Danny Holt/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews

Wednesday, September 28th:

Song Leader Clayton Hamm
Bible Reading Frank Melton
..... (John 19:1-16)
Prayer..... Albert Haraway
Invitation Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer Nathaniel Adams

Sunday, October 2nd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Albert Haraway
Prayer..... Nathaniel Adams
Preaching..... Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Terry Andrews
Assisting Stephen Lynn
Serving Matthew Usery.... Matthew Vaughn
..... Charles Vaughn Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer Bob Broadus

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Keith Hinkle
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Bonnie Sutton
Preaching..... Trenton Barksdale
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell
Other Assignments for the week of October 2nd:
Ushers..... Tommy Coblentz/Danny Johnson
Work Sound System..... Russ Wulfekuhl